

Application No. 10/009,294
Amendment dated January 18, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action of November 1, 2006

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for stimulating healing of wounds which comprises an envelope for receiving an affected part of the body, said envelope including a substantially air-tight cover and porous pad within the cover, said pad being adapted to contact the wound surface, and connection means for connecting the interior of the envelope to a source of negative pressure Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the cover has a re-sealable opening which permits the wound to be inspected at intervals.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 2~~claim 5, wherein the source of negative pressure is a suction pump.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for stimulating healing of wounds which comprises an envelope for receiving an affected part of the body, said envelope including a substantially air-tight cover and porous pad within the cover, said pad being adapted to contact the wound surface, and connection means for connecting the interior of the envelope to a source of negative pressure Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, which includes a canister for collecting wound exudate.

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Claim 8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 6~~claim 5, wherein the source of negative pressure is positioned outside the envelope and fluidly connected to the connection means.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 2~~claim 5, wherein the substantially air-tight cover is air impermeable.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) A method for stimulating new tissue growth, comprising:
introducing a limb of a patient into an interior portion of an outer cover via an opening of the outer cover;
applying a porous component to at least a portion of the limb within the outer cover;
sealing the opening; and
stimulating new tissue growth by applying a negative pressure to the interior portion of the outer cover.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein applying the negative pressure further comprises applying an intermittent negative pressure to the limb sealed in the outer cover.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein applying the negative pressure further comprises applying a continuous negative pressure to the limb sealed in the outer cover.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, further comprising automatically controlling the application of negative pressure using a control device operably associated with a pump.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:
unsealing a second opening;

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exposing the limb through the unsealed second opening to apply the porous component to the limb; and
resealing the second opening.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein unsealing further comprises unsealing a zip-type seal.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein applying a porous component further comprises applying a glove-shaped porous component.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein:
the limb includes a hand and wrist of the patient; and
sealing the open end includes sealing the open end to the wrist of the patient.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein introducing the limb of the patient to the outer cover further comprises introducing the limb to a substantially air-tight outer cover.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein applying the porous component to the limb includes applying the porous component to a hand of the limb while the hand is in at least a partially-closed position.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein applying a porous component includes applying a porous component formed of a reticulated foam.

Claim 21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, further comprising collecting wound exudates within a canister located between the porous component and a pump used to apply the negative pressure.

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Claim 22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for stimulating healing of wounds, comprising:

an envelope for receiving an affected part of the body, said envelope including a substantially air-tight cover and porous pad within the cover, the pad being adapted to contact the wound surface, and a connector fluidly connected to the interior of the envelope and to a source of negative pressure, wherein the cover has a re-sealable opening which permits the wound to be inspected at intervals.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for stimulating healing of wounds, comprising:

an envelope for receiving an affected part of the body, said envelope including a substantially air-tight cover and porous pad within the cover, the pad being adapted to contact the wound surface, and a connector fluidly connected to the interior of the envelope and to a source of negative pressure; and

a canister for collecting wound exudate.

Claim 24. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the source of negative pressure is a suction pump.

Claim 25. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the source of negative pressure is positioned outside the envelope and fluidly connected to the connection means.

Claim 26. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the substantially air-tight cover is air impermeable.

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Claim 27. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the porous pad comprises a foam having intercommunicating cells.

Claim 28. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the envelope comprises a flexible plastic.

Claim 29. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the porous pad comprises polyurethane foam.

Claim 30. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the connection means comprises a flange bonded to the cover, a spout, and an aperture.

Claim 31. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the porous pad comprises a foam having intercommunicating cells.

Claim 32. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the envelope comprises a flexible plastic.

Claim 33. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the porous pad comprises polyurethane foam.

Claim 34. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the connection means comprises a flange bonded to the cover, a spout, and an aperture.

Claim 35. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein the source of negative pressure is positioned outside the envelope.

Claim 36. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein the source of negative pressure is positioned outside the envelope.